

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LUKE MARCHANT'S 40TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2020

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special constituent of the 24th Congressional District, my son, Luke Beckett Marchant. Tomorrow, Luke celebrates his 40th birthday with his wife, Katie, and their two young children, Walker Ross and Carter Bailey.

While working in Austin in an internship during college, he worked for Senator Ken Armbrister. After learning the ropes in the Texas Senate, he shifted gears to run and manage the race for Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples.

Luke graduated from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma, in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and promptly came up to Washington, D.C., in hopes of finding himself a job in public service. I offered to put Luke up at the Pentagon Days Inn in Arlington, VA, for two weeks while he hit the pavement on Capitol Hill in hopes of landing a job as a recent college graduate. After wearing out considerable shoe leather, Luke was hired to work in the mail room for Senator JOHN CORNYN and later learned every street in the nation's capital while navigating the Senator around town as his driver. He quickly rose up through the ranks while never forgetting that he came to work each day to better serve the people of Texas to the best of his ability.

Luke's passion for political life has taken him from Maine to Kentucky; Florida to our Lone Star State. He would go on to work for our colleagues Congressman PETE OLSON and Senator MARCO RUBIO. I'm fiercely proud to note that he also worked for Texas Attorney General and now Governor Greg Abbott.

Even though Luke has journeyed across our great country, it was deep in the heart of Texas, working on PETE OLSON's first run for Congress, when Luke got luckiest. There he met his future wife, Katie, and it changed his life. I'm so proud of the man he has become and the family he and Katie have built. I look forward to spending more time with them and their children at our ranch.

Since December 2016, Luke has served as Vice President for Hill and Knowlton Strategies in Dallas, Texas. I would like to say that I taught him everything that he knows, but that hasn't been true for a very long time. Nowadays he has been teaching his old man plenty.

I wish Luke a wonderful last day of his 30s today, and ask all of my colleagues to join this proud father in wishing him a very happy 40th birthday tomorrow.

COMMEMORATING NASA WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2020

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 75th anniversary of the first launch at NASA Wallops Flight Facility.

As the only Member of Congress to represent two NASA facilities, I am honored to share with Congress this historic achievement. The Wallops Flight Facility, established in 1945 by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, NASA's predecessor, has supported government and commercial scientific discovery and exploration missions, contributed significantly to the Eastern Shore community, and expedited our nation's technological advancements. Wallops employs over 1,000 individuals and is home to NASA's only owned rocket launch range for suborbital and orbital rockets. During its creation, Wallops Island was sought out by the scientific agency for multiple reasons, including its proximity to another NASA facility and a military base. Wallops was established initially for guided missile flight research, but since then has expanded to a diverse and multifaceted mission. On June 27, 1945, the original team launched its first test for the radar systems on their small rockets. While the first launch at Wallops consisted of very few resources and technology, this kickstarted an enduring and critical NASA facility. From that day, NASA Wallops continued to grow, and now the facility is worth over \$1 billion.

Wallops has undertaken a multitude of missions, such as supporting aircraft research, launching rockets and scientific balloons, and enabling critical research aboard the International Space Station, which have improved our nation's understanding of space and beyond. NASA Wallops has led our country and the world in providing flight and launch range services and more generally meeting the needs in the science, aerospace, defense, and commercial industries. I am honored to recognize the hard-working men and women at NASA Wallops and to commemorate this important day in history.

RECOGNIZING LINDA ROST OF BAKER

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2020

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, Montana has some of the best, brightest, most innovative educators in our country, and our stu-

dents are better for it. I rise today to honor one of the best, Linda Rost of Baker who's recognized for her dedication to students and for her outstanding accomplishments in education.

Linda loves rural living and that's why Baker is her perfect fit. She enjoys the culture and the pride people have living in a small community. She says, when there's crummy winter weather, everyone goes through it together, and the community grows stronger and closer.

Her extended family lives in nearby Willard. Linda feels a deep connection to the area. When a teacher is linked to her community that much, she can more easily relate to the kids and make a lasting difference in their lives.

While attending New Mexico State University, Linda started studying to be a scientist, but soon found the lab lonely and boring. She noticed she enjoyed tutoring and began taking education classes. That's when she realized where her passions lie and what she truly wanted to do. Fast forward to today, she earned two master's degrees in education from Montana State University, and is working on a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics at Texas Tech University.

Linda teaches biology, AP biology, chemistry, anatomy and physiology, and science research at Baker High School, the same high school her father went to. She says it's really exciting to see her students pick a research project they're passionate about, lead it to completion, and find themselves along the way. Many of Linda's students have competed in national and international science competitions.

Two recent graduates of Baker High School conducted innovative, cutting-edge research. One student studied breast cancer signs and tested novel drugs used on brain cancer. He conducted weekly Skype sessions with scientists and got good results.

Another student wanted to make a biodegradable wrap for hay bales. She produced a bioplastic for the bales out of algae—stronger than the usual wrap—and after two weeks, it degraded slowly while maintaining its strength.

Linda calls herself a "guide," but she is so much more. Linda serves as an inspiration for her students.

Linda is the 2020 Montana Teacher of the Year, and she was one of four finalists for 2020 National Teacher of the Year, which is run by the Council of Chief State School Officers.

Teaching is Linda's passion, and Montana is better for it, Madam Speaker, for her commitment to education, her exceptional, engaging science instruction, and her lasting impact on students.

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